

Bill Tennent discussing Jarvie Ranch.

Esther Campbell (Esther):he's telling about the history of the Jarvie place. We have a few pictures we'll show at the end of his talk.

Bill Tennent (Bill): Can you all hear me if I don't use the microphone? OK, that'll be much easier. I think Esther is being much too kind. After I started working on the property, she was still living there. One day I was out in the garden and I heard her talking to one of the neighbors telling him that what they needed on this property was somebody that was a farmer and what did they do? They sent her this college boy! So she wasn't all that happy at that point in time. (laughs)

I first got involved with working on the Jarvie property in the summer of 1978 when I was working on my Master's degree at Utah State University and it was in the summer. One of my professors asked me if I'd like to go and work in Vernal for the summer. He said there was this cabin in this park in Vernal and they wanted somebody to research it. So I thought, "Well, that'll be all right. I don't mind going to Vernal and working for the summer." When I got here, I asked them, "Where's this park and where's this cabin?" They said, "Oh, it's not a park in Vernal, it's Brown's Park." I'd say, "Well, where's that?" I'd never heard of the place. "Well, that's seventy miles away, and that's where you're going to be living and that's where you're going to be working." So, it was somewhat of a shock to me to be dumped off in the middle of Brown's Park and left there, and said, "OK, now you're on your own."

But what happened was that when Esther Campbell decided to sell her property in Brown's Park, she knew that it was of historic importance and thought rather than sell it to some commercial developer, it would be best if some governmental agency could manage it and develop it as a historic site. So the Bureau of Land Management was interested in the property, but there had never been a history written of the property, so they needed someone to come and research the history and write a history of the property, and then they would decide if, indeed, the property was valuable enough, historically, to preserve and then decide what they needed to do to preserve it. So basically, during the summer of 1978, I was researching the history of the property. Then during the summer of 1979 I was writing a report on what should be done with the property now that the history was known.

Well, first of all, it's quite difficult writing a history of a ranch if nothing has ever been written about it in the past. About all we knew was that the former owner of the ranch had a store there at one time—we all thought that the stone building was the store—and that he had been murdered at some time or other. That was the basic information that we had. So I had to sort of start from scratch and find out what I could find out about the John Jarvie Ranch and about John Jarvie.

Now luckily, there were two people still living who had actually known John Jarvie. They had known him when they were young people. One was Jess Taylor who was, at that time, living in Rock Springs. When he was a boy, he had worked on the Jarvie Ranch. Another one was Minnie Crouse Rasmussen who, at that time, was 93 years old living in Prescott, Arizona. So I had the opportunity to go to Prescott and interview Minnie about what she remembered about the John Jarvie place and about John Jarvie. She was just a delightful source of information because she was very sharp and could remember quite a bit and was probably my best source of

information because she was someone who had actually known him. She was in her 20s, actually, when John Jarvie was killed, so she was old enough to be able to remember things; whereas Jess Taylor had been a boy and he wasn't quite that observant when he was working for Jarvie.

But, interestingly enough, both of their stories, although one of them was in Rock Springs and one of them was in Prescott, Arizona, their stories matched each other's and their descriptions of the buildings matched each other's and that is what was important because we were trying to find out what the buildings had looked like that had been on the property at the time when Jarvie was living there.

Glade Ross was also a valuable source of information because he's collected so much up at the Gates of Lodore Ranger Station as far as photographs, as far as notes, as far as diaries. Anything he can on Brown's Park history he's collected and has there at the ranger station. Carol Lynn Jarvie, or you may know her as Carol Perry, was the great-granddaughter of John Jarvie. So she was very helpful in trying to find out some information. But not much had been passed down through the family, so she didn't really have very much, but she went right to work trying to dig up what she could. So she was a good source, and she eventually came up with some letters that John Jarvie had written to his sons in about 1907 and there was a lot of information in those letters that we needed.

Of course, another source of information was Esther Campbell because Esther had interviewed people over the years who lived in Brown's Park and she kept notes of things that people like Ann Bassett had told her, things that Josie Bassett had told her. She kept these notes and most of these notes had been turned over to Glade Ross so they were in his collection. Then there are, as you know, some general histories of the area that had been written, *Where The Old West Stayed Young*, which is a book about the Brown's Park area and *Flaming Gorge Country*, which is a book about the Brown's Park area. Those books have some pretty good general information, but nothing really specifically about John Jarvie.

Of course, there were courthouse records. When you're dealing with a place like Brown's Park, half of it's in Utah and half of it's in Colorado. Well, that's easy enough, except for the fact that in the early days, before Uintah County, Uintah County used to be part of Wasatch County so some of the records are in Heber City. Then Uintah County was formed, so some of the records are in Vernal. Then Daggett County was formed out of Uintah County, so some of the records are in Manila. Then the Colorado side of Brown's Park used to all be Routt County, so some of the records are in Steamboat Springs, which is now the county seat. Then it was divided into Routt and Moffatt, so some of the records are in Craig. Then some of the records, since the people in Brown's Park did a lot of business in a northerly direction of Rock Springs and Green River, which were sort of their supply centers, a lot of the records are in the Sweetwater County Courthouse which is in Green River.

So, although I was living in Brown's Park, I was commuting about seventy miles every day either to Craig or Steamboat or Rock Springs or Vernal or Manila to find these records that are in the courthouses. Those courthouse records turned out to be very valuable sources of information because you can find citizenship papers, you can find business licenses, you can find marriage certificates, and all of those pieces of information tell us something. So, bit by bit, we were able to put the whole story together, or at least as much as we could, about John Jarvie.

Now the problem when you're writing about Brown's Park is that there are so many legends and so many myths about the outlaws and about the people who lived there that it's very

hard to separate the myth from the reality. The books that had been written in the past about Brown's Park, generally they just repeated all of these stories as if they were actual fact. What I tried to do when I wrote my book is to indicate the source from which I got the information. That way, the people who are reading the book can decide if they think that was a real good source or if maybe that was just a story, or if that was a real hard fact, a real good piece of documentation. Many times there were differing sides to the stories; even in the same families people will tell you a different story. So in that case, I would pick one story, then in a footnote I would tell you there are other opinions: somebody thinks it happened this way and somebody thinks it happened this way, so that you've got all of the information there and you can decide which you think is the real story and how it really happened. In the book, there are something like 300 footnotes. I thought that was important to put those footnotes in there because then people can read it and it's the first real book that's been written about Brown's Park that I think is really thoroughly documented, as far as the sources, so that people can go back to the original sources and see if they think they are valid or not.

So, as we began to put the information together, we began to find out things about John Jarvie as a man who lived in Brown's Park. We found that he was born in Scotland in 1844. There's a legend in his family that he had worked in coal mines as a boy and he'd been beaten by one of his supervisors, and this made him decide to run away and come to America. We don't know if that's true or not, but the earliest record of him in America is in Rock Springs in 1870, because I was able to find a tax roll that he was listed on and it gave the house that he was living in and who his roommates were in that particular house. Then a little bit later, I found business licenses that he had in Rock Springs.

We know that he was a wholesale liquor dealer and that he had a saloon in Rock Springs on Front Street across from the depot. At some time he sold this saloon and he moved to Brown's Park. He still had his business licenses in Rock Springs up until 1880. Then he appears on the Uintah County tax rolls in 1880. So, we are assuming that is the year that he moved to Brown's Park because his license runs out in Rock Springs and then he's on the tax rolls in Brown's Park, although he probably visited Brown's Park prior to that time to decide that that was the place where he wanted to relocate.

I found that in 1875 he became a U.S. citizen and found out that that was also the same year that he married his wife, a young lady by the name of Nellie Barn. Nellie was sixteen years younger than he was at the time, but that's not necessarily unusual in those days. Very often women married men who were much older than they were. She might have been a singer in his saloon, that's one of the stories. At least we know she had a beautiful voice and after they moved to Brown's Park, she entertained at a lot of the Brown's Park functions by singing. One of the legends is that she was singing in the saloon and that's where he met her.

Well, he moved to Brown's Park, and the first thing they did was to build this little dugout. It's a two-room dugout in the banks just above the Green River. That's where they lived for the first year. After the first year, a store was built, and the log house that they lived in was built, and they moved out of the dugout and moved into the house. The store was the only general store in the area and it sold everything from cloth and thread to food and he even sold a little bit of whiskey there, too. That sort of raised the legend that he was operating a saloon in Brown's Park, the same as he had in Rock Springs. In actuality, he just sold whiskey, and it was not actually a saloon as such.

I found a record in the newspapers in Rock Springs that indicated that he was taken to

court once because they said that he was selling whiskey without a license. So they took him to Rock Springs. They were trying him and they passed around samples of his whiskey to all of the jurors and they all tasted a little bit of it and they acquitted him. They said that he wasn't selling whiskey, he was selling "rotgut." Apparently that's something different from whiskey, so he was set free.

As his business grew, he needed a storage building, so he contracted with a man by the name of Jack Bennett, or John Bennett, to build the stone building. That's the stone house that's still on the Jarvie property. Now, Bennett had been one of Butch Cassidy's men, was sort of a hanger-on with the Butch Cassidy group, although none of the real Butch Cassidy group had many good things to say about him. He got his nickname, Judge, they called him, Judge Bennett, because one time one of Butch Cassidy's men was ill, so they sent for a doctor to come and help this man. But by the time the doctor got there, the man had died. So they decided it would be fun if they tried the doctor for murder because he hadn't arrived in time to save this man's life. So they had a mock trial and Bennett was the one who played the part of the judge during the mock trial. So that became his nickname. From then on they called him Judge Bennett.

I guess they found the doctor guilty, but then they got in some kind of an argument. While they were arguing, the doctor escaped before they gave him any sort of punishment. Bennett is the one that built the stone house. Josie Bassett remembered that Bennett had spent some time in a state penitentiary working on rocks, and that's where he got his knowledge of rock-work and that's why he was able to build such a nice stone house there at the Jarvie place. After the Jarvies moved to Brown's Park, they had four sons: John, Tom, Archie, and Jim.

It's been written in other books that John Jarvie was the first postmaster in Brown's Park. In actuality, I found the records from the postal service in the national archives in Washington. There was a post office prior to John Jarvie being there, and it was in the old Doc Parsons cabin. Unfortunately, the Parsons cabin was burned down in the summer, I think of '78, by some hunters who were camping out in the cabin and accidentally set it on fire. It had been the oldest building in Brown's Park up to that time, now it's just a pile of ashes. But Doc Parsons actually was the first postmaster. Then Jarvie took over, and he became postmaster from 1881 until 1887. So the Jarvie store was not only a general store, it was also the post office. So it became a real important spot in Brown's Park.

Jarvie also set up a ferry that hauled people across the Green River, and the ferry post is still standing there on the Jarvie property. So you had to come through the Jarvie property in order to cross the river. So you can see how important this place was becoming. It was not only the only store in the area, it was also the post office, it was also the only link across the river linking the north and south.

One of the colorful characters in Brown's Park was Speck Williams, who was a black man who worked for Jarvie and operated the ferry across the river. You hear a lot of stories in Brown's Park about things that happened to Speck Williams or things that he did in Brown's Park, but he actually worked for Jarvie for quite a period of time.

Jarvie also had mining interests and he'd invested in mines on Douglas Mountain, and he lost quite a bit of money doing that. Also, one day when he was out prospecting, he fell off his horse and he cracked a couple of ribs. Well, he made it back to his store and Minnie Crouse, who was a young lady at that time, helped bandage him up. He went to a doctor in Rock Springs and this doctor wound him up with adhesive tape, bound him all around with adhesive tape. But Jarvie was quite a hairy character, and they hadn't shaved him before they put the adhesive tape

on, so he came back to Brown's Park and started itching. He finally asked Minnie if she wouldn't please help him get this adhesive tape off. Well, she started to pull off the adhesive tape, and, of course, it was very painful pulling all of the hair out of his chest as she was pulling it off. He was screaming and she started giggling, she thought it was funny, and she got around behind his back and she laughed and finally she got it all off. Then he told her to go into the store and bring out a lady's corset. So she went into the store and she brought out this corset and they bound him around the waist with this corset. That's what he wore until his ribs finally healed was this woman's corset. That's one of the stories that Minnie remembered, and I interviewed her about that.

He also had some horses; he also had some cattle. He built corrals at the Jarvie place and the corrals were made out of rail ties. Those ties had floated down the Green River from Green River City in Wyoming. They used to float the ties down the river and store them there at Green River while they were building the railroad. There was a flood one year, in 1868, and that washed all these ties down the river into Brown's Park. People would swim out in the river and grab the ties or they would just wash up on the shore. When Jarvie went to Brown's Park in 1880, that's quite a few years later, there was still a lot of these rail ties along the banks of the river. So he picked them up, and he had his sons pick them up, and they built most of their buildings right out of these rail ties. He also had a little blacksmith shop there where he did his own work. This was made out of cottonwood logs. It's the only building on the property that was there at the Jarvie time that was not made out of the rail ties.

His personality, when you begin to research someone's history, you begin to learn more and more about them and they become more and more real and more and more alive to you, and you just wish you could meet them. But he had a big, bushy, white beard and long, flowing, white hair. I guess his hair had turned gray when he was very young. It had turned white, so they called him Old John, even, I think, when he was in his 20s, because his hair was prematurely white. So he looked quite a bit older than he actually was. He looked quite a bit like Santa Claus, actually, because he had this big, bushy, white beard and he always carried candy around with him to give to the kids. He was always challenging the kids in footraces, and he often, in the wintertime when the river would freeze over, you could see him ice skating down the river with his white beard flowing behind him. He became a much beloved character in Brown's Park.

He was also a poet, he wrote poetry. He was a musician; he played the organ and he played at all of the social events in Brown's Park. He practiced craniology, telling people's future by reading the bumps on their heads. That made him popular with the local people. And he also had a library mostly of classic books. So he had sort of a lending library, as well, so the people in Brown's Park would get together and take books out of his library. One of them he lent to Minnie Crouse who was then homesteading at the place that's now known as Minnie's Gap, which is just north of Dutch John.

Now, you hear all the outlaw stories about Brown's Park. At least on two or three occasions, John Jarvie had acquaintance with the outlaws in the area. The first time is when Matt Warner had robbed a merchant who was traveling through Brown's Park and had stolen all of the clothing from this merchant. Then he took them to Jarvie's store and had Jarvie distributed the clothing to the people, then they had a big masquerade party that night. All the people from Brown's Park were wearing the clothing, most of which did not fit them, or you would see a woman in cowboy boots with a long frilly dress on. They had mismatched clothing and clothing that didn't go together and clothing that didn't fit, but they had a masquerade party that night, so

we know that he had acquaintance with Matt Warner.

There's also the famous story of the outlaws' Thanksgiving dinner which took place in the late 1890s. Ann Bassett, in the 1950s, wrote a series of letters to Esther Campbell describing this event that took place in Brown's Park on one Thanksgiving when all the outlaws who were living in the area decided to put on a dinner for the local people because the local people had this live-and-let-live attitude. They were kind, you might say, to the outlaws. They didn't bother them, and the outlaws in turn didn't bother them. So they had a mutual co-existence there.

One Thanksgiving the outlaws decided to have a big party for all the local people. They got all the best china and the best linens and the silver from all of the ladies in Brown's Park, and they had a big dinner at the Davenport Ranch. The Bassetts took their silver candelabra and the linens from the Bassett Ranch, and the ladies all dressed in their fine clothing, the men dressed up. It was said to be the only formal event that ever took place in Brown's Park. It is said people such as Kid Curry and Sundance and Butch Cassidy were there. Butch Cassidy was pouring the coffee, he served as the waiter. Isom Dart, the ex-slave who was somewhat of a cattle rustler, was the cook,. He had a big white chef's hat on, and he was the one who cooked the meal.

At one point, Butch was pouring the coffee and he was spilling it all over, and Ann writes in her letters, "It's interesting that someone who can rob a bank or hold up a train without flinching an eyelid, gets so disturbed when it comes to matters of etiquette." So the other outlaws hauled him aside and told him that he was being a little clumsy with the coffee. But that was the only major formal event that ever took place in Brown's Park. John Jarvie had the place of honor. He was at the head of the table at this event. He gave the invocation and then they had entertainment from the local people in Brown's Park. Josie Bassett played a zipper, and some of the ladies sang songs, and John Jarvie played his accordion, and they just had a great time.

Another incident dealing with the outlaws was the John Bennett lynching. Now, the fellow that we talked about earlier who built the stone house on the Jarvie property, later got involved with Pat Johnson and Tracy and Lant, who were two escapees from the Utah Penitentiary who were hiding out in Brown's Park. There was a young boy by the name of Willie Strang who was working on Jarvie's ferry with Speck Williams. He got bored doing that, so he took off to the nearest ranch. At this ranch he played a practical joke on this fellow named Pat Johnson. The stories vary as to what the practical joke was. It was something like he pulled out his chair as he was sitting down, or he spilled a dipper of water on him, or something like this, and this upset Johnson. When the boy wasn't looking, he shot him in the back and killed him. So the outlaws took off and were hiding in the mountains and Judge Bennett had been sent to get supplies for them.

In the mean time, a posse was formed. One of the men in the posse was Valentine Hoy of the large Hoy family that was then living in Brown's Park. As they were approaching the outlaws, Hoy was shot and he was killed. So they killed the young boy, then they killed Valentine Hoy. So the posse was real eager to get somebody for these murders. Although Bennett had not actually murdered anyone, and that was just at the time he showed up with the supplies for these men, he happened to come riding in there. He shot his pistol several times, and that was the warning that he had arrived with the goods. But he not only alerted the outlaws who were hiding in the mountains, he alerted the posse that was right there waiting to surround him. So they grabbed him and they took him to the Bassett Ranch and they left him there.

Not too long afterwards, another group of men, probably the same group of men, came riding in with masks on. They grabbed him from the Bassett house and took him out to the gate

and strung him up over the gate post from a buggy and they lynched him right there. So, although he hadn't actually killed anyone, he sort of paid the price for everybody. That was the only lynching to ever actually take place in Brown's Park. The other men eventually were captured; they were sent to the jail at Hahn's Peak. They escaped from there. They were later captured again and sent to the jail in Aspen. They escaped from there, and it was just an incredible story. Eventually Pat Johnson was tried for the murder of the young boy; he was acquitted. Harry Tracy went on a murder spree throughout the northwest and killed about twenty-eight different people. Finally, when he was about to be captured, he killed himself. So the Jarvie Ranch sort of ties in with that story.

Then, interestingly, years later, when Ann Bassett was visiting with Campbells in Brown's Park, she gave the hanging post to Esther, because she felt that somebody who didn't know what had happened there might just tear down that post and use it for firewood or something. So they took the hanging post and moved it to the Jarvie property a few years later, and now that hanging post is on exhibit inside the stone house. So see how ironic that is? Judge Bennett built the stone house and now on exhibit inside the stone house is the hanging post that he was later hanged from.

Woman: There's more to that story, too. Esther got the buggy and gave her the buggy, restored the buggy.

Bill: Yes, it was restored very beautifully, I've seen pictures of it. That's right. These stories could all go on and on.

(Unintelligible comment)

Bill: Could be. You know, there were so many variations to these stories, no doubt he could have carved his name in a stone. I think it's pretty well documented that he was killed in Oregon or Washington or something. And the other thing, since we know the outlaws were in Brown's Park....

SIDE TWO

We know that Minnie Crouse and her father, Charlie, or at least her parents, were quite well acquainted with the outlaws. When I was interviewing Minnie, she indicated to me several times that the outlaws quite frequently stayed in that dugout at the Jarvie Ranch, so I think probably the dugout at the Jarvie ranch might be a little more significant than some of the other sites in Brown's Park, as far as places where the outlaws actually stayed. Although, I don't think it's unusual at all, since they probably visited every place in Brown's Park.

Woman: Do you have any idea of what the population of Brown's Park was at that time?

Bill: From the records, we don't think there ever really was many more than thirty families living in the area at any one time, so it was very scarce, the population was very sparse. That was one reason why the outlaws stayed there, because it was a very sparsely populated place. It was a difficult place to get to, and it was very convenient to three different states. If you were being

chased by someone from Utah, you just crossed over into Colorado or up into Wyoming or vice versa, so it was an ideal place for them to hide out. But it never has been very heavily populated.

Esther: At that time, there were more people living there then than there are now.

Bill: I'm sure there were. Jarvie, unfortunately, was murdered in 1909, and probably this is the one fact of his life that we know the most about, because murders tend to make the newspapers and they tend to get recorded. So, oftentimes these sensational kind of things kind of color the picture of a person that we're trying to study. But his murder was pretty well documented.

In 1909, his sons had left his home and they were working on neighboring ranches, so he was alone. His sons had also left home because they thought he was a penny-pincher. He was very thrifty with his money and they thought that he was just keeping it from them. They thought that he was actually wealthy. I guess in those days, parents didn't discuss their finances with their children as much as they do today, and so the children did not really understand that their father really did not have a lot of money. In these letters that he wrote to his sons in 1907, he's trying to explain to them that he was not really a miser, that he had to be sparing with his money because he didn't have a lot. So he's trying to regain their love, and apparently they'd left home with some sense of disappointment in their father. In any case, they were not living at home at the time.

One night, two fellows came into the store. It was just about dinner time, so Jarvie set out extra places for these fellows, a very hospitable man. On their way to Brown's Park, coming in to Brown's Park from Rock Springs, they had passed several people from Brown's Park going in the opposite direction. These men remarked what they had been wearing. They had been wearing old clothes, and they said they were going to Brown's Park to look for work. Of course, these men that passed them, one was Charlie Peters and I forget the other one right off hand, but they, of course, did not know the real reason why these men were going to Brown's Park.

When they got to the Jarvie place and he set out dinner for them, he found out very soon that they had not come there for dinner. They'd come there to rob him, because the legend was that he had a lot of money hidden in his store. Well, he'd just been to Rock Springs the week before to pay up his yearly bills, so he really didn't have any money in the store at that time. Apparently he had one \$100 bill in his safe, and he also had a pearl-handled revolver in his safe.

The robbers forced him to open the safe. We know that because the safe had not been blown open. In fact, when people came to the store after the murder, they found the safe closed and they had to get it open. So the robbers forced him to open the safe. They took what they could out of the safe, then there was a brief struggle in the store. Jarvie, who was 65 years old at the time, ran out of the store, and as he was running away from these men, they shot him twice, once in the middle of the back and once in the back of the head. He fell down; he died instantly.

They then grabbed him by his heels and dragged him around the stone building down to the river and put his body into a boat that was tied there, tied him into the boat and then cut the boat loose, assuming that it would float down the river to the Gates of Lodore and be destroyed and no one would ever find the body. Then they looted the store. They took as much as they possibly could. Unfortunately, they had only one horse. They thought they could steal another horse at the next ranch which was about a mile away. They rode down to the next ranch and they didn't find any horses there, so they had to unload a lot of these goods that they were carrying from the store. Then they headed up Jesse Ewing Canyon on their way to Rock Springs. They had gotten their clothes bloody while they were carrying his body and putting it into the boat, so

they took their old clothes off and they put on new clothes, including new boots, thinking that they would be able to ride this horse all the way to Rock Springs, the two men on the one horse. So they left their bloody clothes in a pile there in Jesse Ewing Canyon and they went on to Rock Springs.

In the meantime, on their way to Rock Springs these two men, who had been in Rock Springs from Brown's Park, passed them on the way back, and they saw that they were wearing new clothes then, they had new boots on. But they didn't think much about it until they got to Brown's Park. We don't know who actually discovered the fact that Jarvie had been killed, the stories vary a little bit. But it was probably the next day somebody came to his store to do business and they found the store empty and saw that it had been ransacked with things all over.

They could also see the trail where they had dragged his body because his long white hair had snagged out on sticks and stones along the way, little bits of it were along the trail as well. They could even see the depression where his body had laid on the soft sand before they could put it into the boat and cut it loose. So this alerted the community that some foul deed had taken place there, and a posse was immediately formed and they began to search for them.

His son, Jimmy, took off for Rock Springs. We know that the killers checked into a hotel in Rock Springs and they had left a wake-up call for the next morning in time to catch the train heading east. The son got to Rock Springs just after the train had left, so he just missed catching the killers there. In Point of Rocks, which is just east of Rock Springs, a storekeeper there says that two men came in and they cashed a \$100 bill. So we're pretty sure that those were the killers. They came in and they cashed the \$100 bill and they got back on the train and headed on east again.

In the meantime, Minnie Crouse, who had borrowed a book from John Jarvie, had not heard that he had been killed, and she went down to Brown's Park to give the book back to him. She was living at Minnie's Gap, which is maybe 23-25 miles away. She went into Brown's Park with this book and she found that his store was empty, and she saw the bloody trail and the little bits of his hair that had pulled out. So she immediately joined the search for him as well.

The interesting thing was that she kept this book all of these years. When I went to interview her in 1978 in Arizona, she gave me the book. It was a Jack London story and Jarvie, as he had read, had written little notes in the margins of the book as if he were "critiquing" the book for Jack London. His final comment in the book was he didn't care for the book too much. He wrote that "if you couldn't have done better than this, you shouldn't have done anything at all." So he was also a literary critic. We're hoping that eventually that book will be in the museum there at the Jarvie place, but right now, Carol Lynn Perry has the book.

The search began, and it was not until about eleven days later that the body was actually found. The boat did not get all the way to the Gates of Lodore, but it snagged right where the Lodore School is in some brush alongside the river. The story has it, there are several different stories, one that the boat tipped over, but since the body was tied into it, it remained inside the boat, submerged, upside down. Another story that the body had fallen out of the boat, another story that they just found it sitting in the boat. In any case, they were saying the body was bloated quite a bit because it was in the hot sun.

They went to the Bassett Ranch and built a casket for him and brought it back, it had to be an extra large one, and they buried him right there at Lodore School. So he's there in the Lodore Cemetery now. The search for the killers is an interesting story because his youngest son, Jimmy Jarvie, who was about nineteen or twenty years old at that time, continued to search for

these killers. He chased them for up to two years, and he chased them all over the west.

Apparently he would come back to Brown's Park periodically and work and get some more money, and then he would go out and look for these killers again. Sometimes his family would send him money as well, but we know that he was hunting for them for at least two years because we have some business papers that he signed two years later, so we know that he was back in Brown's Park at that time. He continued to hunt for them and he continued to be just behind them as they would reach town and he would reach it just after they had left. Finally, he tracked them down.

The stories vary as to where he tracked them down. It was probably somewhere in Idaho, although that's not for certain. Montpelier or Pocatello, Idaho, although the stories vary. I've talked to people who said it was as far east as St. Louis when he finally caught up with them. But anyway, his youngest son arrived in the same town as the killers. By this time they were pretty tired of being pursued by this young man, and Jimmy Jarvie checked into the hotel there and he had a room on the second floor.

These men knew that he had been chasing them, and they broke into his room that night and struggled with him, and they tossed him out the window, the second floor window, and he fell two stories on[to] his head and he was killed. So they killed his father, and then they killed the son, and then they disappeared forever. They were never apprehended for this crime. It's quite a sensational murder story, and unfortunately it's one of the more thoroughly documented aspects in John Jarvie's life that we know about because it made a lot of the newspapers and it was reported all over the west. So we've got a lot of records dealing with his murder.

That's pretty much the life story of John Jarvie, and I think we've pretty much indicated that his story is a pretty exciting one, that his story is a pretty important one, that he was a pretty important person, at least regionally, and locally in Brown's Park. So the BLM has decided they are definitely restoring the site. It will be returned to the way it looked in 1909 as much as possible.

In the years following his death after 1909, changes took place on the property. His store eventually was torn down, the logs removed to a different site and made into a house there. But the dugout remains and the stone house remains and the blacksmith shop remains. The BLM is doing a very careful job. First they did an archeological survey to dig up the foundations to the old store. Luckily they found it right where I thought that it would be and indicated to them that that was the site where it should have been. Pretty much the dimensions are what we thought it would be. So they've done a real thorough job of digging up the site.

When they dug up the foundation of the store, they uncovered things that were left in there when the basement was filled in. They found something like ninety-seven bottles. These were not just whiskey bottles, but also medicine bottles and soda bottles and all sorts of bottles. The earliest one dates back to about 1860, which is quite a bit earlier than John Jarvie moved to Brown's Park, so it was probably something that he had brought with him. But they found a lot of bottles in there. They found some old harness; they found chimney lanterns and just a lot of things that had been very heavily corroded, most of the metal and leather things were in extremely poor shape because the ranch is right on the river and the water table is very high. So anything that's in the ground for any period of time is just going to be destroyed.

About the only thing that they can really identify are the bottles that they dug up. They've analyzed the bottles and they were able to come up with a photograph of the Jarvie store. Like I say, the store was torn down and then reassembled on another site. So they were able to find a

picture of that building as it appeared in 1928. Of course, that's years after Jarvie was killed, but those were the same logs. So they know that his store and his house were also built out of the same ties, the rail ties, that the rest of the buildings were built out of.

Yesterday they were supposed to be putting the roof on. They've rebuilt the store, and they've rebuilt the house. Eventually they will restock the store with period-type merchandise that would have been in the store around the turn of the century. The house portion they are going to use for, like, fire-fighting crews, people who need to spend time in Brown's Park on business, BLM, the Forest Service or people who have to be housed there. Eventually the plan calls for restoring the entire area. He had an enormous water-wheel that lifted water from the river up to his irrigation system. They want to rebuild the water-wheel. They want to actually rebuild the ferry and have it operating across the river so that people can experience a ferry ride across the river. It's going to be a long period of time, probably ten to fifteen years before everything is returned to the way it was at that time period. In the meantime, they're doing a very thorough job of making it into as accurate as possible historic site as they can.

I've got some slides of the property that I'll show you now. These first few will be real dim, we used photocopies of historic photographs. Most of these will be different sizes as well. This is Ann and Josie Bassett, and it's from them that we learned a lot about the Jarvie place. They left records; they were real important sources of information, Ann Bassett in younger days, Josie Bassett in older days.

This is Minnie Crouse Rasmussen, she was probably in her early 90s at this point in time. Unfortunately, she passed away just a couple of months shy of her 100th birthday. A lot of authors, people who write about Brown's Park, claim that she was Butch Cassidy's girlfriend. When I interviewed her, she denied that very strongly. In fact, she knew him. He worked for her father, and she remembered him as being very kind and he was very good with horses, but she claimed, he was probably at least eleven years older than she was. I don't know if that makes much difference, because, like I said, older men seemed to marry younger women at the time. Jarvie was sixteen years older than his wife. But she claimed that she was not his girlfriend. She was a fabulous source of information about the Jarvie place.

One thing, when you tape oral histories, I'm sure you know, people try to please you. If you ask them a question, they give you an answer even if they can't really remember what happened. I found when interviewing several other people, that some of the other people gave me answers, descriptions of Jarvie's store, that it had windows and doors all in different places. They were doing that to be kind and to be helpful, but when I interviewed Minnie, and I interviewed Jess Taylor, both of their descriptions of the store were almost identical. So we're pretty positive that their stories are the ones ...facts...

Now this is the Green River in Brown's Park, and the Jarvie Ranch was built right at the edge of the Green River. This is looking down the hillside above. Now the building in the center there is the trailer home that ? lived in when they were on the farm. You're looking down a little bit different direction, right at the stables there. There are four graves on the property.

Ann Bassett and Esther Campbell went through Brown's Park and tried to mark all of the unmarked graves. So they put up these signs on the graves throughout Brown's Park. Some of them are disputed, people aren't really positive. There are four people buried, man by the name of Hook, who had been the first mayor of Cheyenne, Wyoming. He was drown in the river on an expedition. His body had washed ashore there. There's some pretty good evidence that he's buried here, and there's some pretty good evidence that he's buried in other places as well. We

think maybe the reason is, his wife offered a \$100 reward to anyone who could tell her where her husband was buried. Consequently, there are a lot of different supposed graves in Brown's Park.

Another person who is buried there is a young boy by the name of Robinson. He had staked a claim right next to a man by the name of Jesse Ewing. Ewing was in a choice area. Ewing thought that his claim was too close to his, so one winter when the river was frozen over, Robinson stabbed him to death, left his body laying on the ice, blood flowing along the ice. So they found Robinson up to the Jarvie place and buried him in this little cemetery there.

The third person is a man by the name of Young who was killed in about 1885. We don't know really anything about him except that he was drown crossing the river. Ironically, the last grave is also 1885, and is Jesse Ewing himself. Jesse Ewing was a prospector. He went into Brown's Park and Jesse Ewing Canyon, which is named after him. He had a cabin there. Well, what he would do, on his own, so he would go to Rock Springs occasionally and go to the bar. They'd prospect for a while until the money ran out, then he'd chase him off and go get another one. He had a partner this time by the name of Duncan. He also had a lady friend he brought from Rock Springs by the name of Madame Forestall. She was apparently very... lady in the red light district in Rock Springs.

One day when Jesse was out prospecting, she and his partner got friendly and they saw Jesse returning to the cabin, so they pulled out a shotgun and as he approached the cabin, they shot him through a crack in the wall. The stories vary, but apparently it just about blew off his head and decapitated him. Then they left the country very quickly. They stopped on the way at Jarvie's store and said that Jesse Ewing was ill. I guess they were right, so Jarvie went up to the Ewing cabin and found him dead, brought his body down. Ironically he was buried right alongside of young boy, Robinson, that Ewing killed a few years earlier on the ice.

This is the dugout where the Jarvies first lived when they moved to Brown's Park and where the outlaws stayed occasionally. The dugout has been stabilized inside. There's two good-sized rooms inside there. One of my very first experiences in Brown's Park was going into this dugout. It does have electricity, and there's a light bulb hanging from the ceiling in the back room. But at that time, it was about knee-deep in newspapers and boxes and cardboard, and I kind of worked my way through all of this pile of trash. And I was reaching onto the ceiling fumbling around trying to find the light bulb to turn on. I heard something go "plop" off the ceiling and into this pile of rubbish and scatter away. I finally did get the light on and found this enormous ? But I can imagine if I had reached up and grabbed the snake or it could have easily have dropped on my shoulders as well as it did in the rubbish. They've reinforced the walls and cleaned out the dugout.

This is the stone house. In the years after Jarvie lived there, that addition on the left was added by subsequent owners of the property. The stone house that Jack Bennett built was there.

These are the corrals and stables that he built. As you can see, they are mostly constructed out of rail ties. That post in the middle leaning on the rail is the hanging post. It has since been moved indoors to keep it out of the weather.

The blacksmith shop.

Downstream the Lodore School.

This is the Jarvie grave you can see in the foreground, the Lodore Cemetery, the Lodore School in the background.

These are some shots around the country. A lot of improvements were made over the years. Eventually when the property is returned completely to the 1909 period, any buildings or

things that were added to the property in subsequent years will have to be removed. In the meantime the rock garden is still there, although it's not as nice as it used to be.

This is a drawing of what the store looked like. The pit, as you see there, is the archeological dig that they are doing on the site. That grassy area in the foreground, that's where the store and the Jarvie house used to be. This is before they began digging for the foundation. This is the ongoing part of the archeological dig. See these enormous boulders he used as a foundation under the store? The store and the house were actually one long, continuous building. Those rocks in the center, those were portions of the basement wall. So they've rebuilt the store, and the house will be right over the spot where it had been originally.

I do have a couple of pictures here that I can show to you, I'll pass them around. They show the long building as it is now.